



Bill: HB 299

Date: March 22, 2023

Position: Support

HB 299 –Environment - Synthetic Turf - Chain of Custody

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and Members of the Education, Energy and Environment Committee:

We enthusiastically support HB 299. Monitoring, designing and managing solid waste more efficiently is a key strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To do this efficiently and effectively, the State needs to know what is in our waste stream. Synthetic turf fields are a notable component of the waste stream because disposal options are limited. The size and weight of the materials makes them unsuitable for many conventional disposal options.

Tracking field installations will help ensure the materials are properly disposed of at the end of their useful life and increase the probability that alternatives for disposal can be developed. Quantifying the volume of material is a basic first step to developing better disposal options. This bill improves solid waste stream information available to local governments and the State. All waste stream data helps ensure improved waste management.

This is one of those rare instances where we have an opportunity to take steps to manage a category of waste *before* it becomes a littering or dumping problem.

Thank you for your consideration. We respectfully urge your favorable support.

Trash Free Maryland

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